Filing Date: August 1, 2000 Title: LEAD HAVING VARYING STIFFNESS AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THEREOF

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Communication dated February 12, 2007.

Claims 17, 19, 20, 21, 24-26 and 43-46 are amended, claims 16 and 27-42 are canceled, and claims 47-58 are added; as a result, claims 17-26 and 43-58 are now pending in this application.

Claims 17-26 and 43-46

Claim 25 is amended pursuant to the Appeal Decision dated January 23, 2007 and the Office Communication dated February 12, 2007. Claim 25 has been amended to independent form including the subject matter of claim 16. Applicant respectfully submits claim 25 is distinguishable over the presently cited prior art. Further, claims 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 26 and 43-46 are amended to now depend from claim 25. Applicant respectfully submits claims 17-24 and 43-46 are patentable at least as dependent claims of patentable base claim 25.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 17-26 and 43-46 are respectfully requested.

Claims 47-58

Claims 47-58 are new. Applicant respectfully submits the newly added claims are supported by the specification and therefore do not include new matter. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits claims 47-58 are distinguishable over the presently cited prior art. Claims 47-58 are patentable at least as dependent claims of patentable base claim 25.

Consideration and allowance of claims 47-58 are respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 371-2117 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail StopRCE, Commissioner of Paterlis, 369/, Box 3650, Alexandria, 3/A 22313-1450 on this

Name

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